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## COIN HOARDS 2013

MEDIEVAL and MODERN HOARDS

A HOARD OF COUNTERFEIT CROWN / TALER SIZED COINS

15. Nysted, Lolland, Denmark, 1868 (FP 297 and 789)

*by*

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## DENMARK

### A HOARD OF COUNTERFEIT CROWN / TALER SIZED COINS

#### 15. Nysted, Lolland, Denmark, 1868 (FP 297 and 789)

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#### [PLATES 82–85]

*Dep.* 1725 or later

1,166+ Æ

In 1868 a hoard of counterfeit European coins from 1594–1725 was found in a peat bog in Nysted Klostermark, east of Nystad on the Isle of Lolland, Denmark by the workman Hans Olsen. He was digging a drainage ditch in the area owned by a brickwork owner Jørgen Rasmussen from Nysted Østermølle. The hoard was found one half alen (around 20 centimetres or a little more) below the surface in a place where a tree had stood. First, 200 pieces were found, then 260 more pieces were found one alen (about 63 cm) away, and then about 750 pieces another alen away. They had all been rolled into some kind of fabric which had decomposed.

Some pieces were given to different people so only 1,164 were handed in to The Royal Collection of Coins and Medals in accordance with the Danefæ provisions (treasure trove). The Collection let the royal assayer test the coins and his conclusion was that they were cast of tin with a little addition of zinc and lead. The Collection registered the hoard (no. FP 297) and kept a specimen of each of the 28 types: 22 Danish and six foreign (illustrated). The remainder and a reward of 2 rigsdaler (only 2 rigsdaler due to the lack of precious metal in the coins) were sent back to the finder.

Two of the coins, not previously handed in, were sent to the collection in 1900 (no. FP 789). They were both returned to the sender.

No mention of, investigations into, people or trials connected to, this large-scale counterfeiting are currently known.

The counterfeit coins are cast from genuine coins. They are, in general, significantly below the weight of the genuine coins and as such not very convincing base-metal counterfeits. All coins within each of the 28 groups may have been cast from the same mold, and would therefore be die-identical. As so many coins were returned, and because of the use of older, less precise, typological attribution by the nineteenth century recorders, it is impossible to know how many different genuine coins or molds were used. It was at least 28 coins, but probably not many more.

#### CATALOGUE

The weight and die axis is given of specimens illustrated on **Pls 81–85** which are preserved in The Royal Collection.

*Denmark-Norway**Frederik III (1648–70)*

- 1–7. Crown, 1653, Copenhagen (Aagaard 2004,<sup>1</sup> p. 92, no. T28 and p. 183, die link 53-68/53-7). 18.48 g, 6 h.
- 8–22. Crown, 1659, Copenhagen (Aagaard 2004, p. 99, no. 71). 18.46 g, 5 h.
- 23–46. Crown, 1659, Glückstadt (Hede,<sup>2</sup> p. 57, no. 153; Aagaard unpublished die study, die link 59-53/59-6). 23.05 g, 7 h.
- 47–73. Crown, 1668, Copenhagen (Aagaard 2004, p. 106 and 159, no. 105.11 and die link 68-GK2/68-GK8. 16.11 g, 9 h.
- 74–145. Crown, 1669, Copenhagen (Aagaard 2004, p. 108 and 162, no. 114.2 and die link 68-GK21/69-GK1). 17.79 g, 9 h.

*Christian V (1670–99)*

- 146–275. Crown, 1681, Copenhagen (Aagaard 1998,<sup>3</sup> p. 73, T28, die link 81-1/81-1). 17.11 g, 12 h.
- 276–81. Crown, 1682, Copenhagen (Aagaard 1998, p. 74, T29, die link 82-8/82-5). 17.66 g, 9 h.
- 282–4. Crown, 1684, Copenhagen (Aagaard 1998, p. 76, T36, die link 84-6/84-9). 17.85 g, 6–7 h.
- 285–309. Crown, 1686, Copenhagen. (Aagaard 1998, p. 79, T42, die link 86-4/86-6). 19.00 g, 6 h.
- 310–20. Crown, 1689, Copenhagen. (Aagaard 1998, p. 80, T45, die link 86-9/89-3). 20.89 g, 6 h.
- 321–84. Crown, 1691, Copenhagen. (Aagaard 1998, p. 85, T58, die link 91-3/91-5). 17.05 g, 6 h.
- 385–520. Crown, 1693, Glückstadt (Hede, p. 70, no. 125A; Aagaard unpublished die study, isolated die combination known in about 12 specimens). 22.30 g, 12 h.
- 521–44. Crown, 1670, Oslo (Hede, p. 128, no. 41A). The hoard contained two types of the Oslo crown 1670. 1: 16.10 g, 1–2 h. 2: 19.26 g, 12 h. The second specimen (Aagaard 1998,<sup>4</sup> p. 119, die combination MC70-1/MC70-1) belongs to a larger group of contemporary, professional imitations of Danish crowns provisionally named *mystery crowns*, which perhaps were produced in Northern Germany.<sup>5</sup>
- 545–6. Crown, 1671, Oslo (Hede, p. 128, no. 41A). 15.22 g, 1 h.
- 547–61. Crown, 1680, Oslo (Hede, p. 128, no. 41C). 16.79 g, 2 h.
- 562. Crown, 1682, Oslo (Hede, p. 129, no. 55). 20.39 g, 4 h.
- 563–6. Crown, 1683, Oslo (Hede, p. 129, no. 55). 18.69 g, 12 h.
- 567–77. Crown, 1687, Oslo (Hede, p. 129, no. 55). 12.24 g, 11 h.
- 578. Crown, 1687, Kongsberg (Hede, p. 131, no. 67B; Aagaard, unpublished die study, die combination 87-2/87-12). 16.68 g, c.12 h.
- 579–815. Crown, 1689, Oslo (Hede, p. 129, no. 55). 14.12 g, 1 h.

<sup>1</sup> S. Aagaard, *Frederik III Kronemønt København 1651–1670* (Copenhagen, 2004).

<sup>2</sup> h. Hede, *Danmarks og Norges mønter 1541–1814–1977*, 3<sup>rd</sup> revised ed. (Copenhagen, 1978).

<sup>3</sup> S. Aagaard, 'Beskrivelse af Christian V's københavnske kronemønt 1671–92', *Numismatisk Rapport* 21 (1998), pp. 55–103.

<sup>4</sup> S. Aagaard, 'Samtidig udenlandsk (nordtysk?) kopiering af norske Christianiakroner fra Frederik III 1669 og Christian V 1670, 1672 og 1679', in: J. Moesgaard and P. Nielsen (ed.), *Ord med mening. Festskrift til Jørgen Steen Jensen 1. november 1998* (Copenhagen 1998), pp. 117–20.

<sup>5</sup> S. Aagaard, 'Mysteriekroner' – samtidige, udenlandske kopier af københavnske kroner fra Fr.III og Chr.V., *Numismatisk Rapport* 17 (1994), pp. 59–89.



*Frederik IV (1699–1730)*

816. Crown, 1725, Kongsberg (Hede, p. 133, no. 4). 15.92 g, 5-6 h.

*Overijssel*

817–74. Taler, 1620 (Davenport 1974,<sup>6</sup> p. 562, no. 4832; KM,<sup>7</sup> p. 1218, no. 13. 21.02 g, 8 h.

*Hanover: City*

875–924. Taler 1670 (Davenport 1967,<sup>8</sup> p. 139, no. 5399; KM, p. 524, no. 74). 23.46 g, 7 h.

*Brunswick-Wolfenbittel*

*August II of Brunswick (1635–66)*

925–80. Taler 1637 (Davenport 1976,<sup>9</sup> p. 103, no. 6337; KM, p. 436, no. 393.1). 22.52 g, 5–6 h.

*Saxony*

*Christian II, Johann Georg I, and August (1591–1611)*

981–1048. Taler, 1594 (Davenport 1979,<sup>10</sup> p. 325, no. 9820). 20.73 g, 4 h.

*Austria Holy Roman Empire*

*Ferdinand II (1619–37)*

1049–101. Taler, 1625, Joachimsthal (Davenport 1974, p. 43, no. 3141; KM, p. 126, no. 356). 22.12 g, 10 h.

*Leopold I (1658–1705)*

1102–64. Taler, 1698, Kremnitz (Davenport 1974, p. 81, no. 3264; KM, p. 934, no. 214.8). 18.7 g, 12 h.

FP no. 789 (two more coins from the same deposit, both returned):

1. Crown, Danish, 1669.
2. Taler, Bohemia, 1621.

*Disp.* 28 pieces preserved at The National Museum of Denmark, The Royal Collection of Coins and Medals. The rest have been dispersed. Four pieces seem (1989) to be in the collection at Herlufsholm, Zealand: Crown Danish 1659 and 1691, Utrecht, ‘taler’, 1620, and August II of Brunswick 1632?

<sup>6</sup> J.S. Davenport, *European Crowns 1600–1700* (Galesburg, Ill., 1974).

<sup>7</sup> C.R. Bruce et al., *Standard Catalog of World Coins Seventeenth Century 1601–1700*, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, (Iola, Wis., 2008)

<sup>8</sup> J.S. Davenport, *German Church and City Talers 1600–1700* (Galesburg, Ill., 1967).

<sup>9</sup> J.S. Davenport, *German Secular Talers 1600–1700* (Frankfurt am Main, 1976).

<sup>10</sup> J.S. Davenport, *German Talers 1500–1600* (Frankfurt am Main, 1979).





1



8



23



47



74



146



MÄRCHER and AAGAARD, A HOARD OF COUNTERFEIT CROWN / TALER SIZED COINS (1)

PLATE 82



MÄRCHER and AAGAARD, A HOARD OF COUNTERFEIT CROWN / TALER SIZED COINS (2)





521-1



521-2



545



547



562



563



PLATE 84



MÄRCHER and AAGAARD, A HOARD OF COUNTERFEIT CROWN / TALER SIZED COINS (4)





925



981



1049



1102



